

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE**

**PRINT 117-8**

**OFFERED BY MR. GOMEZ OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle E of title II of division B, insert the following:

**1 SEC. 2506. TRANSIT TO TRAILS GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) COMMUNITY OF COLOR.—The term “com-  
4 munity of color” means a geographically distinct  
5 area in which the population of any of the following  
6 categories of individuals is higher than the average  
7 populations of that category for the State in which  
8 the community is located:

9 (A) Black.

10 (B) African American.

11 (C) Asian.

12 (D) Pacific Islander.

13 (E) Other non-white race.

14 (F) Hispanic.

15 (G) Latino.

16 (2) CRITICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—

17 The term “critically underserved community”  
18 means—

1 (A) a community that can demonstrate to  
2 the Secretary that the community has inad-  
3 equate, insufficient, or no park space or recre-  
4 ation facilities, including by demonstrating—

5 (i) quality concerns relating to the  
6 available park space or recreation facilities;

7 (ii) the presence of recreational facili-  
8 ties that do not serve the needs of the com-  
9 munity; or

10 (iii) the inequitable distribution of  
11 park space for high-need populations,  
12 based on income, age, or other measures of  
13 vulnerability and need;

14 (B) a community in which at least 50 per-  
15 cent of the population is not located within 1/2  
16 mile of park space; or

17 (C) any other community that the Sec-  
18 retary determines to be appropriate.

19 (3) DESIGNATED SERVICE AREA.—The term  
20 “designated service area” means a geographical area  
21 recommended by a designated official planning agen-  
22 cy, that defines the community where coordinated  
23 transportation services are be provided to the trans-  
24 portation disadvantaged.

1           (4) DISPROPORTIONATE BURDEN OF ADVERSE  
2           HUMAN HEALTH OR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.—

3           The term “disproportionate burden of adverse  
4           human health or environmental effects” means a sit-  
5           uation where there exists higher or more adverse  
6           human health or environmental effects on commu-  
7           nities of color, low income communities, and Tribal  
8           and indigenous communities.

9           (5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
10          ty” means—

11                   (A) a State or local government entity;

12                   (B) a political subdivision of a State (in-  
13                   cluding a city or a county);

14                   (C) a special purpose district (including a  
15                   park district);

16                   (D) an Indian tribe (as defined in section  
17                   4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
18                   cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

19                   (E) a metropolitan planning organization  
20                   (as defined in section 134(b) of title 23, United  
21                   States Code).

22          (6) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.—

23          The term “environmental justice community” means  
24          a community with significant representation of com-  
25          munities of color, low income communities, or Tribal

1 and indigenous communities, that experience, or is  
2 at risk of experiencing higher or more adverse  
3 human health or environmental effects.

4 (7) LOW INCOME COMMUNITY.—the term “low  
5 income community” means any census block group  
6 in which 30 percent or more of the population are  
7 individuals with an annual household income equal  
8 to, or less than, the greater of—

9 (A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the  
10 median income of the area in which the house-  
11 hold is located, as reported by the Department  
12 of Housing and Urban Development; and

13 (B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty  
14 line.

15 (8) MICROTRANSIT.—The term “microtransit”  
16 means low-capacity transportation service carrying  
17 small numbers of people at a time.

18 (9) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
19 the Transit to Trails Grant Program established  
20 under subsection (b)(1).

21 (10) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”  
22 means a community that is not an urbanized area.

23 (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
24 means the Secretary of Transportation.

25 (12) TRANSPORTATION CONNECTOR.—

(12) STATE.—  
The term  
“State” means  
each of the  
several States,  
the District of  
Columbia, and  
each territory or  
possession of  
the United  
States.

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “transportation connector” means a system that—

2 (i) connects 2 zip codes or communities within a 175-mile radius of a designated service area; and

3 (ii) provides public transportation.

4 (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “transportation connector” includes microtransits, bus lines, light rail, rapid transits, or personal rapid transits.

5 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program, to be known as the “Transit to Trails Grant Program”, under which the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities for—

7 (A) projects that develop transportation connectors or routes in or serving, and related culturally and linguistically appropriate education materials for, critically underserved communities to increase access and mobility to Federal or non-Federal public land, inland and costal waters, parkland, or monuments; or

8 (B) projects that facilitate transportation improvements to enhance access to Federal or

1 non-Federal public land and recreational oppor-  
2 tunities in critically underserved communities.

3 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ad-  
5 minister the program to assist eligible entities  
6 in the development of transportation <sup>public</sup> ~~connectors~~  
7 ~~or~~ routes in or serving, and related culturally  
8 and linguistically appropriate education mate-  
9 rials for, critically underserved communities to  
10 increase access and mobility to Federal or non-  
11 Federal public land, inland and coastal waters,  
12 parkland, or monuments.

13 (B) JOINT PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary  
14 shall encourage joint partnership projects under  
15 the program, if available, among multiple agen-  
16 cies, including school districts, nonprofit organi-  
17 zations, metropolitan planning organizations,  
18 regional transportation authorities, transit  
19 agencies, and State and local governmental  
20 agencies (including park and recreation agen-  
21 cies and authorities) to enhance investment of  
22 public sources.

23 (C) ANNUAL GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL  
24 SOLICITATION, REVIEW, AND APPROVAL.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary  
2 shall—

3 (I) annually solicit the submis-  
4 sion of project proposals for grants  
5 from eligible entities under the pro-  
6 gram; and

7 (II) review each project proposal  
8 submitted under subclause (I) on a  
9 timeline established by the Secretary.

10 (ii) REQUIRED ELEMENTS FOR  
11 PROJECT PROPOSAL.—A project proposal  
12 submitted under clause (i)(I) shall in-  
13 clude—

14 (I) a statement of the purposes  
15 of the project;

16 (II) the name of the entity or in-  
17 dividual with overall responsibility for  
18 the project;

19 (III) a description of the quali-  
20 fications of the entity or individuals  
21 identified under subclause (II);

22 (IV) a description of—

23 (aa) staffing and stake-  
24 holder engagement for the  
25 project;

1 (bb) the logistics of the  
2 project; and

3 (cc) anticipated outcomes of  
4 the project;

5 (V) a proposed budget for the  
6 funds and time required to complete  
7 the project;

8 (VI) information regarding the  
9 source and amount of matching fund-  
10 ing available for the project;

11 (VII) information that dem-  
12 onstrates the clear potential of the  
13 project to contribute to increased ac-  
14 cess to parkland for critically under-  
15 served communities; and

16 (VIII) any other information that  
17 the Secretary considers to be nec-  
18 essary for evaluating the eligibility of  
19 the project for funding under the pro-  
20 gram.

21 (D) PRIORITY.—To the extent practicable,  
22 in determining whether to approve project pro-  
23 posals under the program, the Secretary shall  
24 prioritize projects that—



1 (i) are designed to increase access and  
2 mobility to local or neighborhood Federal  
3 or non-Federal public land, inland and  
4 costal waters, parkland, monuments, or  
5 recreational opportunities;

6 (ii) ~~zero~~ <sup>utilize low or no</sup> emission vehicles;

7 (iii) provide free or discounted rates  
8 for low income riders;

9 (iv) provide opportunities for youth  
10 engagement;

11 ~~(v) provide employment preference to~~  
12 ~~individuals who reside in the community~~  
13 ~~where the project is granted;~~

14 (vi) projects established in commu-  
15 nities of color, low-income communities,  
16 Tribal or indigenous communities, or rural  
17 communities;

18 ~~(vii) use of public-private partnership~~  
19 ~~and private investment in transit to trails~~  
20 ~~projects, and~~

21 (viii) comply with relevant regulations  
22 in the Americans with Disabilities Act of  
23 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

24 (3) TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCE-  
25 DURES.—

1 (A) PROCEDURES.— In consultation with  
2 the head of each appropriate Federal land man-  
3 agement agency, the Secretary shall ensure that  
4 projects conducted under the program that are  
5 consistent with metropolitan and statewide  
6 planning processes.

7 (B) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the  
8 program, the Secretary shall ensure the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 (i) All projects carried out under the  
11 program will comply with sections 5303  
12 and 5304 of title 49, United States Code.

13 (ii) All new transportation connectors  
14 and routes established under a project  
15 shall be accessible in accordance with the  
16 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990  
17 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) accessibility  
18 specifications for transportation vehicles.

19 (iii) State department of transpor-  
20 tation agencies shall engage with relevant  
21 stakeholders consistent with sections  
22 5304(f)(3) and 5404(g)(3) of title 49,  
23 United States Code, and metropolitan  
24 planning organizations shall engage with  
25 relevant stakeholders consistent with sec-

1           tions 5303(g)(3)(B), 5303(i)(5), and  
2           5303(i)(6) of title 49, United States Code,  
3           in addition to faith-based and community-  
4           based organizations.

5           (iv) Except as otherwise provided  
6           under this section, a grant provided under  
7           this section shall be subject to the require-  
8           ments of section 5307 of title 49, United  
9           States Code.

10       (4) FEDERAL SHARE.—

11           (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of  
12           the cost of an eligible project carried out under  
13           this subsection shall not exceed 80 percent.

14           (B) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Fed-  
15           eral share of the cost of an eligible project car-  
16           ried out under this subsection may be derived  
17           from in-kind contributions.

18       (5) ELIGIBLE USES.—Grant funds provided  
19       under the program may be used—

20           (A) to develop transportation connectors or  
21           routes in or serving, and related culturally and  
22           linguistically appropriate education materials  
23           for, critically underserved communities to in-  
24           crease access and mobility to Federal and non-

1 Federal public land, inland and costal waters,  
2 parkland, and monuments; and

3 (B) to create or significantly enhance ac-  
4 cess to Federal or non-Federal public land and  
5 recreational opportunities in an urban area or  
6 a rural area.

7 (6) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant provided under  
8 the program shall be—

9 (A) not less than \$25,000; and

10 (B) not more than \$500,000.

11 (7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—It is the intent  
12 of Congress that grants provided under the program  
13 deliver project funds to areas of greatest need while  
14 offering technical assistance to all applicants and po-  
15 tential applicants for grant preparation to encourage  
16 full participation in the program.

17 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

18 (1) REPORTS BY GRANT RECIPIENTS.—The  
19 Secretary shall require a recipient of a grant under  
20 the program to submit to the Secretary at least 1  
21 performance and financial report that—

22 (A) includes—

23 (i) demographic data on communities  
24 served by the project; and

1 (ii) a summary of project activities  
2 conducted after receiving the grant; and

3 (B) describes the status of each project  
4 funded by the grant as of the date of the re-  
5 port.

6 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—In addition to the  
7 report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
8 may require additional reports from a recipient, as  
9 the Secretary determines to be appropriate, includ-  
10 ing a final report.

11 (3) DEADLINES.—The Secretary shall establish  
12 deadlines for the submission of each report required  
13 under paragraph (1) or (2).

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
16 \$10,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 and  
17 \$20,000,000 for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

